

Westward the site continues as a Pine/Scrub Oak Sandhill. Additional populations of Lewis's heartleaf occur in this area; scrub post oak locally dominates the subcanopy layer.

Heavily-chewed longleaf pine cones noted on the site visit are clear evidence of the presence of the Significantly Rare eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*). The longleaf pines appear to be too middle-aged, and the stand not large enough in size, to contain a population of red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*).

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION: The site has been "managed" successfully in recent years through occasional harvest of the pines and oaks. This thinning has allowed for good regeneration of the longleaf pines. Some controlled burns are recommended to better manage the site for a more diverse herb layer. Portions of the property are used for hunting or for ORV-riding, as wide trails, tracks, and jeep trails crisscross the natural area, and one hunting stand is present. The site is privately owned and not protected. Because of the closeness of the sand mine, there is a real concern that the natural area could be mined in the near future. Houses line Devil's Race Track Road on the north side of the natural area, and some trash has been dumped onto the fringes of the site adjacent to the homes.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES: Xeric Sandhill Scrub, Pine/Scrub Oak Sandhill, Streamhead Pocosin

RARE PLANTS: Lewis's heartleaf (*Hexastylis lewisii*)

RARE ANIMALS: Vertebrates -- eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*)

REFERENCES:

LeGrand, H.E., Jr. 2001. Site survey report: Hannah Creek Sandhill. N.C. Natural Heritage Program, DPR, DENR, Raleigh.